

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Island County Council of Governments met in Regular Session on February 23, 2011 in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room # 102B), Annex Building, 1 N.E. 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair, Angie Homola at 9:00 a.m.

The Council of Governments Minutes and recordings of meetings may be located at <http://www.islandcounty.net/commissioners/documents/2011/2011COG.html>

Members Present: Angie Homola, Commissioner
Helen Price Johnson, Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Commissioner
(attended via Polycom from the Camano Annex)
Jim Slowik, City of Oak Harbor Mayor
Paul Samuelson, City of Langley Mayor
Curt Gordon, South Whidbey Port District Commissioner

Others Present: Morgan Schneider, Puget Sound Partnership
Aaron Henderson, Environmental Health Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By unanimous motion the January 26, 2011 minutes were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHER

By unanimous motion a voucher in the amount of \$975 was approved as presented, in payment to Britt Conn, Sustainable Whidbey Coalition Coordinator.

PRESENTATION

By: Morgan Schneider, Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, Puget Sound Partnership

Handouts provided:

Puget Sound Partnership: 2009-2010 Highlights

Draft Island Local Integrating Organization Proposal

Ms. Schneider spoke to the work of the Puget Sound Partnership at the regional level and provided a follow-up to the January 26 meeting at which the idea of creating a local integrating organization was discussed (the objective of which to implement priority actions for Puget Sound health). Dialogue ensued about the proposed Island Local Integrating/Implementation Organization's purpose, role, and geographic focus (governance structure and Policy Development Committee).

While the Council is intrigued by the idea, some expressed a need for more clarification in terms of requests, funding, and the role of the Puget Sound Partnership and others. It was mentioned that the agenda may be, at this moment, too aggressive at a time when the State is trying to reduce its budget.

Aaron Henderson, Island County's Environmental Health Director, expressed his belief that the Policy Development Committee is not only a way for the groups to effectively communicate but if unified, the group would be better prepared for the project when funding becomes available from the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Health, and Department of Ecology. A question does remain as to how best to represent the municipalities and other groups; possibly, consideration should be given to the necessity for an ad hoc committee that might be specialized in a particular aspect of work to be done.

The consensus was that the Council of Governments was becoming more comfortable with the thought of participating as the Executive Committee. From the conversation it was evident, however, that more work is needed first to determine the scope of the Policy Development Committee. For that reason, Ms. Schneider will communicate with those suggested at the municipalities and ports to tackle the next step of fleshing out what the committee will look like. She will also contact the policy board of the Salmon Recovery Project and Chair Homola to help determine priorities.

The next steps include:

- Further flesh out the structure of the Policy Development Committee.
- Ms. Schneider will touch base with COG members to make sure the effort is heading in the right direction.
- Ms. Schneider will return to the April COG meeting with a proposal.
- It was suggested that the Economic Development Council be included as a Business interest.
- It was suggested there be two seats for the tribal community with assurance that its technical expertise is woven into the Policy Development Committee.
- The Water and Sewer Districts should be included since they are involved with water quality functions.

Ms. Schneider suggested a meeting with the Commissioners and Director of the Puget Sound Partnership and Chair of the Leadership Council to talk more about the Puget Sound Partnership and its work in Island County. She will arrange with staff for a meeting at a Commissioners' Work Session.

OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN

Mayor Slowik spoke about the Task Force's plans to travel to Washington DC for a meeting at the Pentagon to talk about the siting of the P-8A. The Mayor and Commissioner Homola engaged in a discussion about her ongoing desire to join the effort and either work parallel to the Task Force or collaboratively for the benefit of the community.

The City of Oak Harbor's staff will support the Council of Governments meetings for the months of March, April and May.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 2011.


APPROVED